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 TO RUEH/SECSTATE WASHDC 5568  
 INFO RUEH/EMBASSY ISLAMABAD 9275  
 RUEH/EMBASSY NEW DELHI 7307  
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E.O. 12065: GDS 9-9-85 (TAYLOR, JAMES E.) OR-P  
 TAGS: PIRN, PINT, AF  
 SUBJECT: (CLOU) BIOGRAPHIC TID BITS ON PM AMIN

1. (CLOU) PRIME MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN, IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL FOREIGN JOURNALISTS PUBLISHED LOCALLY ON SEPTEMBER 6, REVEALED THE FOLLOWING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

-- HE IS FIFTY YEARS OLD (NOTE: HE CARRY HIM AS BEING FIFTY-TWO).

-- HE GAINED HIS POLITICAL AWARENESS IN THE UNITED STATES WHILE A STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN IN THE SUMMER OF 1952. AT THAT TIME HE TOOK SEVERAL POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS COURSES, "USED TO GO TO THE SOCIALIST PROGRESSIVE CLUBS," AND "CLOSELY WATCHED CAPITALIST CONDITIONS."

-- HE WAS EITHER "OUSTED" BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR "SUMMONED HOME" BY THE AFGHAN REGIME BEFORE HE COULD COMPLETE THE ORAL EXAMINATIONS FOR HIS PHD. AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. U.S. AUTHORITIES TOLD HIM HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED HOME, BUT UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN KABUL, HE WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. HAD "OUSTED" HIM. ALTHOUGH HE "DEMANDED" THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE HIS STUDIES AT HIS OWN EXPENSE, HE WAS TURNED DOWN.

-- HE FOCUSED HIS ATTENTION ON ORGANIZING AND RECRUITING PARTY CADRE WITHIN THE MILITARY IN 1973, AFTER HAVING SERVED FOUR YEARS IN THE PARLIAMENT WHICH EXISTED UNDER THE MONARCHY.

2. (C) COMMENT: IN THIS PARTICULAR INTERVIEW, AMIN ONLY OBLIQUELY BLAMES THE U.S. FOR "EXPPELLING" HIM BECAUSE OF HIS OBTENSIBLY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS HE HAS NOT BEEN AS POLITE. HIS LACK OF A GENUINE PHD APPARENTLY STILL RANKLES, AND SOME OBSERVERS WERE EVEN SO FAR AS TO ALLEGED THAT HIS PREMATURE DEPARTURE FROM COLUMBIA (FOR WHATEVER REASON) IS THE ROOT SOURCE OF AMIN'S ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. AMIN'S ROLE AS THE PARTY'S PRIMARY MOVER AND SHAKER IN THE AFGHAN ARMY (APPARENTLY FOR THE CRUCIAL 1973-1978 PERIOD) EXPLAINS, TO A GREAT EXTENT, WHY THE KHALGI MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY HAVE RETAINED, SO FAR AT LEAST, THEIR LOYALTY TO THE REGIME, DESPITE GROWING TENSIONS AND VIOLENCE. PREVIOUS INFORMATION HAS INDICATED THAT AMIN WAS ACTIVELY RECRUITING IN THE MILITARY PRIOR TO 1973, BUT HIS REMARK HERE MAY SUGGEST THAT THIS BECAME HIS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE REVOLUTION. FINALLY AMIN'S SATISFACTION OF A CLOUD OF YEARS FROM MICHIGAN COULD COMPENSATE FOR THE SEVERAL TIMES HE HAS ADDED TO HIS CLOTHES SINCE THE REVOLUTION, ALTHOUGH IN THIS SOCIETY SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING DRESSING TRENDS LIKE PARTICIPATES IS GENERALLY NON-EXISTENT.

BTUTZ